

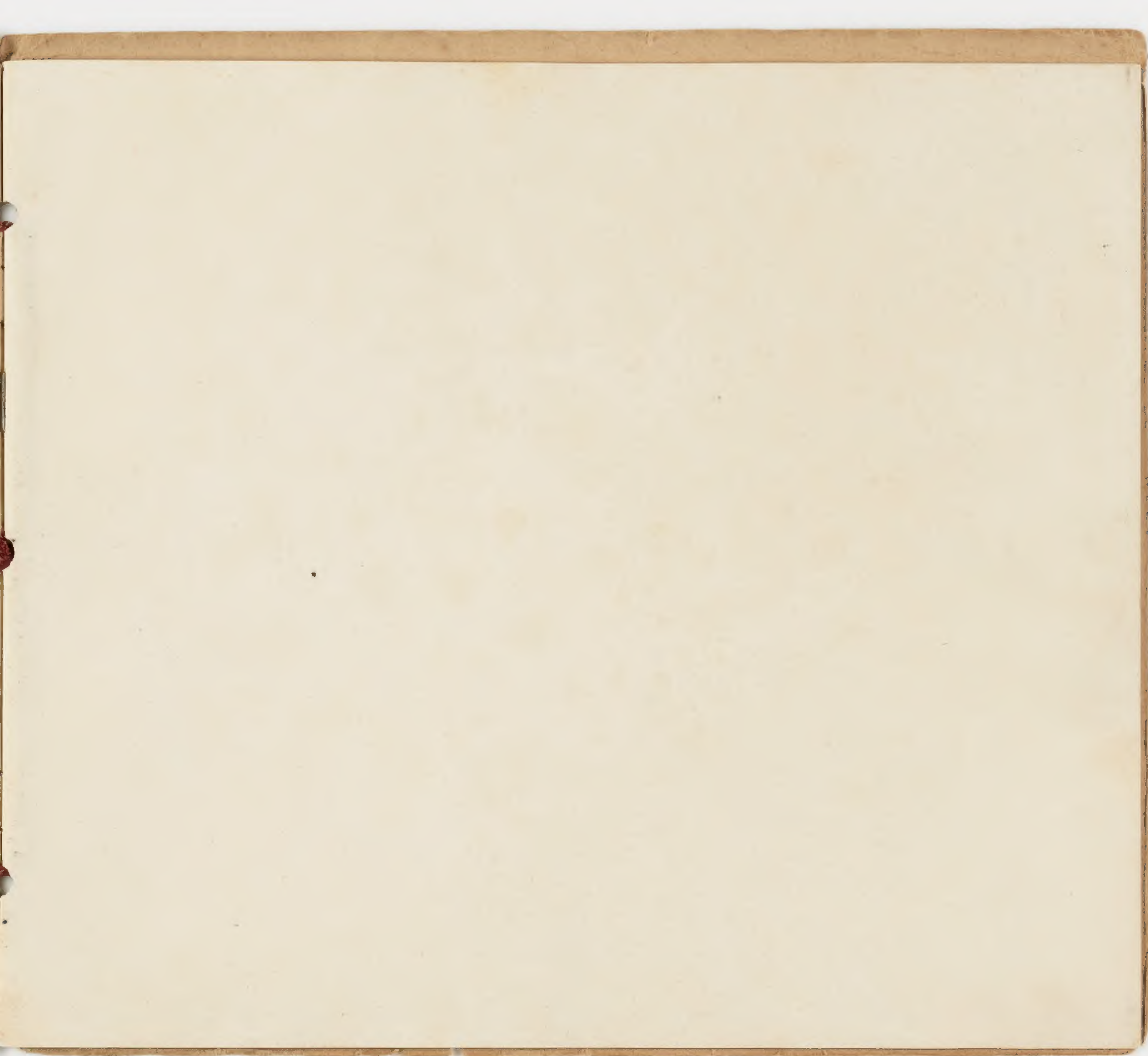
EXHIBITION

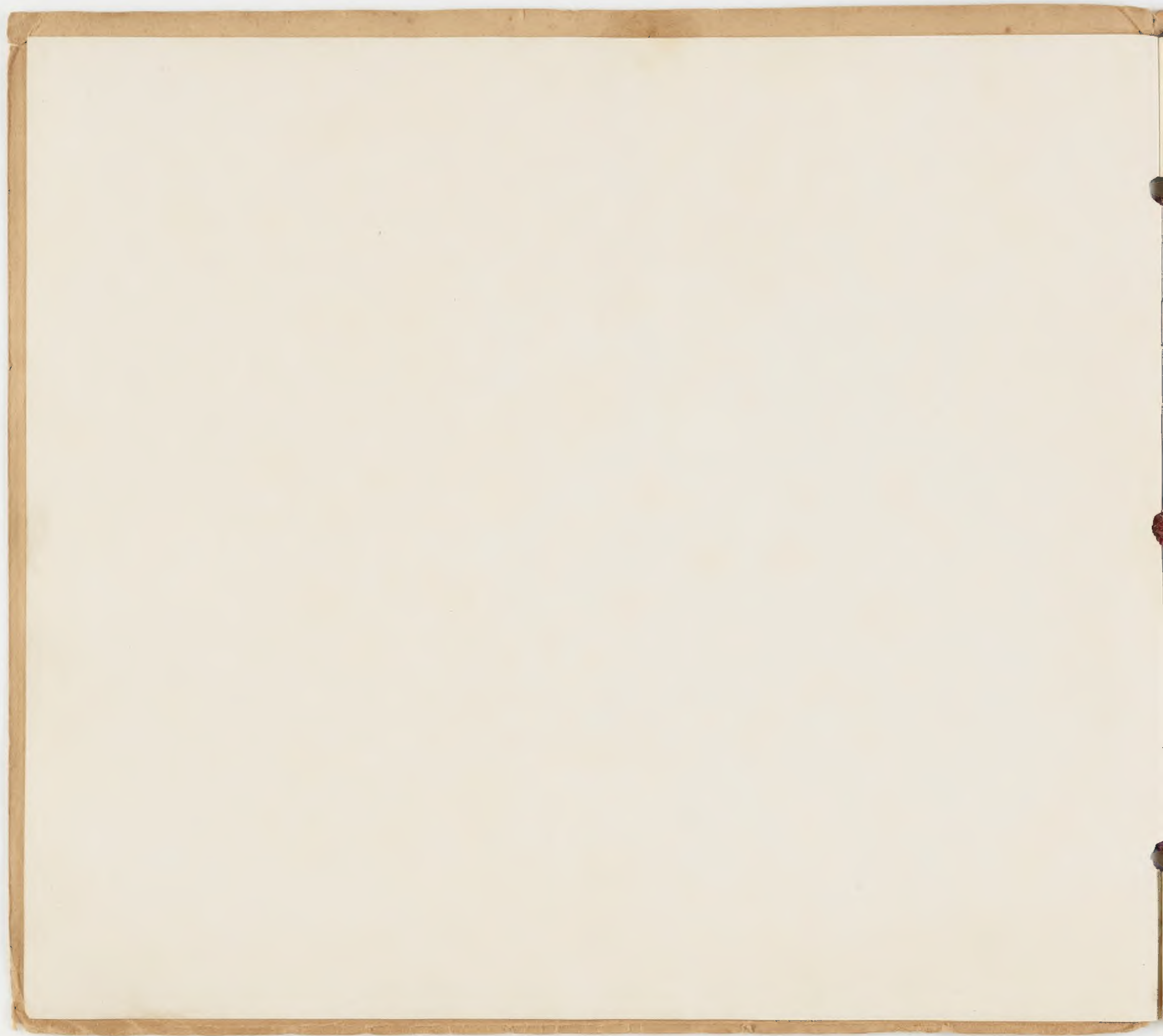
1949

Royal Train Furnishings

By GRACE BROS *Sydney*



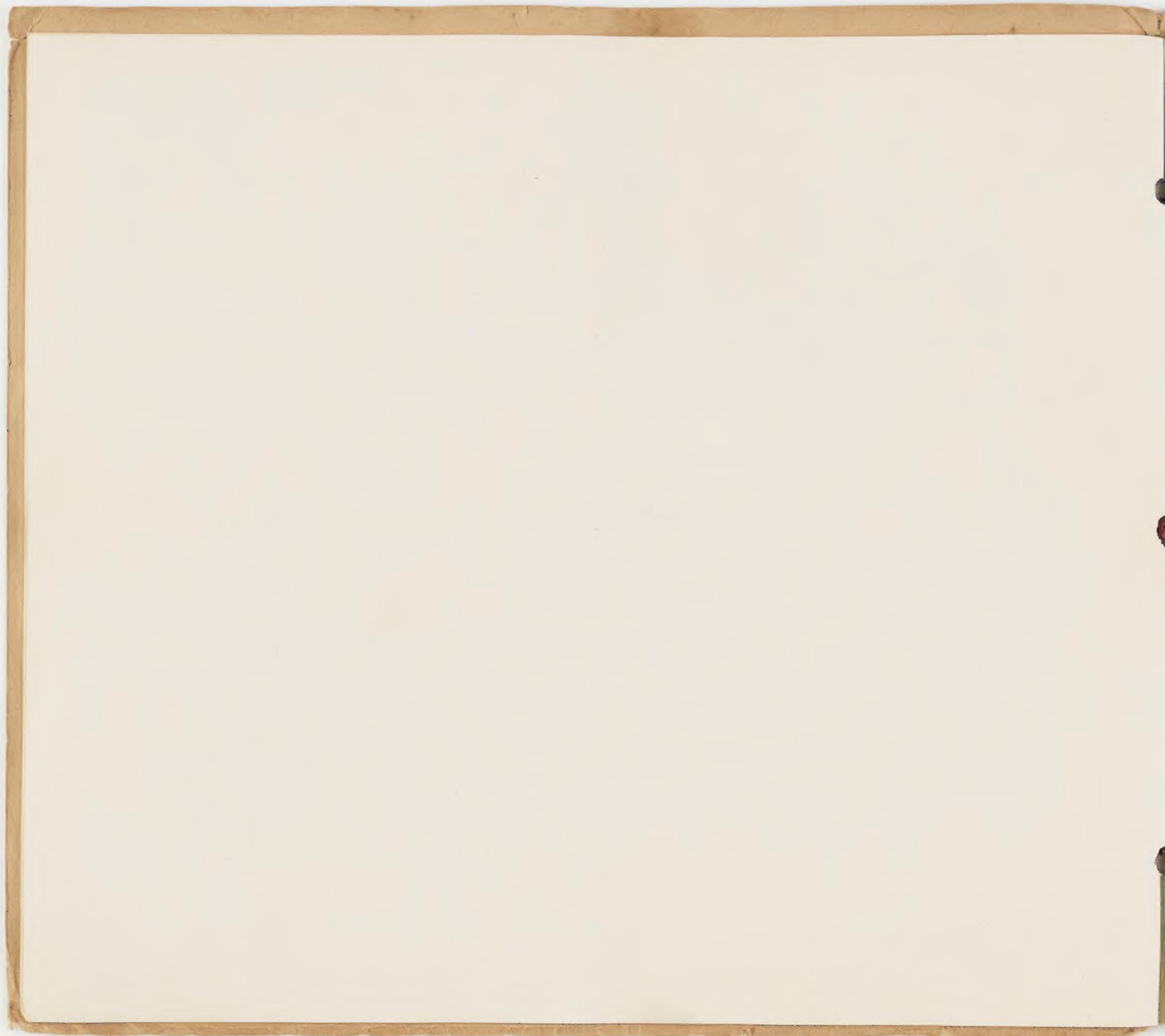




HIS MAJESTY THE KING

. . . NEWS THAT STIRRED THE BRITISH EMPIRE . . .

We received, with heartfelt concern, news of the illness of our beloved Monarch. Disappointment that the New Year Royal Tour would not be made was overshadowed by anxiety for the health of His Majesty. The Nation's plans for joyous welcoming were stemmed — perhaps only for awhile — but, above all, we hope and trust for the complete recovery of our King.



EXHIBITION

1949

Royal Train Furnishings

by

GRACE BROS

Sydney

PTY LTD.



INTRODUCTION TO THE ROYAL TRAIN — 1949.

Early in 1948, His Majesty The King graciously proclaimed a tour of Australia.

The Government of New South Wales decided to provide a Royal Train for the convenience and pleasure of our Royal Visitors and instructed the Railway Commissioner to provide a suitable train to be known as the Royal Train.

The responsible officers of the Railway Department, after careful investigation, decided in favour of placing the order for the complete furnishing of the Royal Train in the hands of Grace Bros. Pty. Ltd.

Plans and specifications of the Royal Train used in South Africa recently and now referred to as the "Royal Hotel on Wheels" were made available. This Train was made and completely furnished in England and shipped to South Africa. The furnishings were by the world-renowned firm of Waring and Gillow, of London.

Our job was to provide a train completely produced in Australia. The Royal Train, when completed, comprised 13 Coaches of which four (4) were to be occupied by their Majesties as Staterooms, Lounge and Dining Room.

These Coaches were all steel construction, fully air conditioned. The Staterooms contained bedrooms and full sized bathrooms.

His Majesty was provided with a small study and private interviewing room.

Her Majesty's Stateroom was provided with a private lounge room opening from stateroom.

The Royal Lounge furnished to provide seating accommodation for 25 persons and the Royal Diner furnished to seat 18 guests at a table, 18 feet long.

As this train was to be used only for short periods, Grace Bros. decided to make the interiors as intimate as possible and approximating to apartments used by their Majesties in their country or holiday residences. To this end the Railway authorities co-operated and instructed the Commonwealth Engineering Co., of Granville (the company responsible for the building of the Royal Coaches), to provide the compartment walls with a surface suitable for wallpaper.

Grace Bros.' planners decided on the traditional "Adam" period furniture, this being the most graceful type of period furniture suitable for the confined space available on a train.

Colourings throughout are pastel shades with specially imported wallpaper made to overcome vibration caused by movement on the rails.

The following colour reproductions show an artist's impression of the four Royal Saloons.

Royal Train

HIS MAJESTY'S STATEROOM

17 feet x 7 feet approximately. Carpet—Plain Forest Green, fitted to plan. Wallpaper, pale green flat finish ground with tiny gold stars.

Furniture in "Adam" period in Mahogany. 3 feet Bedstead with de luxe bedding. Curtains in gold silk trellis damask and beige voile inner curtains. Bed Cover and upholstered Bed Head in damask to match curtains. Chairs in toning green taborette.



E. Donaghey

Royal Train

HER MAJESTY'S STATEROOM

18 feet x 7 feet—"Adam" period furniture in figured Satinwood. This timber is very rare but Grace Bros. were fortunate in securing enough for this furniture. The Carpet is plain Mushroom Pink with Curtains in matching plain satin and beige voile inner curtains. The Bed Cover and upholstered Bed Head are in polished English Chintz in pastel shades. Soft pink "Adam" Wallpaper.



E. Donaghey.

Royal Train

THE ROYAL LOUNGE

35 feet x 8 feet 6 inches to accommodate 25 persons. Lime Grey plain Carpet to fit plan, with plain green satin Curtains and beige voile inner curtains. Wallpaper, soft lime green flat finish with pale gold rope trellis design. 20 Chairs and 2 Settees with side and coffee tables in "Adam" period in solid Mahogany. Upholstery in floral polished Chintz and plain green Silk Damask.



Royal Train

THE ROYAL DINER

35 feet x 8 feet 6 inches. Plain Axminster Carpet in Dusty Blue to fit plan. Walls in close gold stripe and ecru paper. Curtains in soft blue "Adam" design damask and beige voile inner Curtains. The furniture in "Adam" period Mahogany with upholstery in off white plain Satin. The 18 feet Table is decorated with a fine Sheffield plate Candelabra of 5 candles.

Each Coach was provided with trellis silk blinds in pastel shades to tone with the internal scheme, and all curtain rods and fittings finished in satin silver.

